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August 26, 1976

Dr. Thomas C. Feeney, Jr.
Montgomery County Community College
340 DeKalb Pike
Blue Bell, Pa. 19422

Dear Dr. Feeney,

Mrs. Sylvia Averbach has asked me to write to you in connection with her interest in the position of Coordinator of Medical Laboratory Technician Program at Montgomery County Community College. ↓

I have known Mrs. Averbach for over 30 years having worked very closely with her in a Naval hospital laboratory at the very beginning of our respective careers, and having had the opportunity to accommodate Mrs. Averbach as a visitor in our laboratory for a summer a year ago. So, I think I can speak with some confidence about her qualifications for the kind of position in question right now.

I know that she will have presented her formal credentials to you, and I am sure that these are more than adequate to the indicated task. I can also affirm the competence in technical microbiological work that she brought into the laboratory during her visit. My own fellows and technicians may have been a little surprised when I invited her to do this - at a time not so long after her late husband's death - but they rapidly discovered that there was far more than sentimentality in my appreciation of her as a worker in the lab. Without exception they were not only extremely fond of her but found her a very quick and willing learner in the special techniques ~~that~~ we use in our research and someone well able to contribute after a very short time of reindoctrination in these particular procedures. I would have been delighted to have been able to have her as one of my own graduate students or fellows if the time and circumstances were otherwise appropriate. But having established that there is no possible deficit in this aspect of what she could bring, let me add my appreciation of her truly remarkable qualities as a person, a friend, a counselor for all of the people of any age that she has related to. It is hard for me to imagine a person more likely to fulfill your highest expectations in the coordinating role that she is now applying for. The way that she has been able to manage her own life with great cheer and constructive reconsolidation of her circumstances is a further testimony to the qualities to which I have just referred. Of all the people that I know, she is the one to whom age has made the least difference and one who has been able to relate most successfully to the widest range of other human beings regardless of their own circumstances.

I think you would be most fortunate to be able to recruit Mrs. Averbach, both in regard to the occupational and administrative role in question and as a personal colleague in support of your institution's overall goals.

I would be happy to give any further information that you might wish to have to help you reach an appropriate conclusion,

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

JL/rr